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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/902,884	07/11/2001	James J. Cervera	08935-245001/ M-4962	9175
26161	7590	04/13/2004	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON PC 225 FRANKLIN ST BOSTON, MA 02110			CREPEAU, JONATHAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1746

DATE MAILED: 04/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/902,884

Applicant(s)

CERVERA ET AL.

Examiner

Jonathan S. Crepeau

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-11,14-16,22,24-26 and 28-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-9 and 28-38 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10,11,14-16,22,24-26 and 39-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/20/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. This Office action addresses claims 1, 4-11, 14-16, 22, 24-26, and 28-49. Claims 1, 4-9, and 28-38 are allowed. Applicant's argument with regard to the "pore volume" of Nardi is persuasive and the rejections over Nardi are withdrawn. Additionally, Applicant's statement of common ownership with regard to the Davis reference is sufficient to remove this reference from being used in a §103 rejection. However, claims 10, 11, 14-16, 22, 24-26 and 39-49 are newly rejected under 35 USC §103 herein. Claims 10, 11, 14-16, 22, and 24-26 are also newly rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph. As the new §103 rejection of claims 39-49 was not necessitated by amendment, this action is non-final.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 10, 11, 14-16, 22, and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to recite that the BET surface area is from about 5 m<sup>2</sup>/g (10 m<sup>2</sup>/g) to "about 15 m<sup>2</sup>/g." The closest support in the application for the

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latter endpoint is believed to be original claim 12, which recited that the surface area was “greater than about 15 m<sup>2</sup>/g.” However, it is submitted that the terms “about 15” and “greater than about 15” are different in scope. For example, “about 15” encompasses values below 15.0 whereas “greater than about 15” does not. Accordingly, as these terms are of different scope, there is not believed to be sufficient support in the originally-filed application for “about 15 m<sup>2</sup>/g.”

Similarly, amended claim 11 recites “of from about 10 m<sup>2</sup>/g,” whereas original claim 11 recited “greater than about 10 m<sup>2</sup>/g.” The amendatory language is considered to constitute new matter for the above-noted reasons.

Claims 22 and 24 have been amended to recite “greater than 40 microns.” The closest support is believed to be original claim 24, which recited that the particle size was “between about 40 and about 50 microns.” As the amendatory language “greater than 40” is different than the original language “about 40,” the amendatory language is also considered to constitute new matter.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. Claims 10, 11, 14-16, 22, and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Barsukov et al (U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2001/0041293) in view of JP 10-284056.

Regarding claims 10 and 22, Barsukov et al. is directed to a primary alkaline battery comprising a cathode comprising manganese dioxide, expanded graphite, and non-expanded graphite (see abstract). The battery further comprises an anode, a separator, and an electrolyte

(see paragraph 21). Regarding claims 14, 15, 25, and 26, the graphite mixture comprises 0.1-99.9 wt% expanded graphite (see claim 4 of the reference). Regarding claim 16, the non-expanded particles have an average particle size of less than 15 microns (see paragraph 45).

However, Barsukov et al. do not expressly teach that the expanded graphite has a BET surface area from about  $5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  to  $15 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  as recited in claims 10 and 11, or that the expanded graphite has a  $D_{50}$  (i.e., average) particle size of greater than 40 microns and less than or equal to 100 microns (claims 22 and 24).

JP 10-248056 is directed to a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery. In the abstract, the reference teaches expanded graphite having a BET surface area of  $5\text{-}50 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  and an average particle diameter of 1-50 microns.

Therefore, the invention as a whole would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because the artisan would be motivated to use the expanded graphite of JP '056 in the battery of Barsukov et al. In the abstract, JP '056 teaches that the battery using such is "excellent in cycle characteristic and is reduced in side reaction generated when the battery is preserved and used." Accordingly, because the artisan would be motivated to use the expanded graphite of JP '056 in the battery of Barsukov et al. Therefore, the ranges of BET surface area and  $D_{50}$  particle size would be rendered obvious to the skilled artisan.

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5. Claims 39-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Barsukov et al (U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2001/0041293) in view of Ishii et al (U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2001/0033822).

Regarding claims 39 and 46, Barsukov et al. is directed to a primary alkaline battery comprising a cathode comprising manganese dioxide, expanded graphite, and non-expanded graphite (see abstract). The battery further comprises an anode, a separator, and an electrolyte (see paragraph 21). Regarding claims 47, and 48, the graphite mixture comprises 0.1-99.9 wt% expanded graphite (see claim 4 of the reference). Regarding claim 49, the non-expanded particles have an average particle size of less than 15 microns (see paragraph 45). Regarding claim 44, the manganese dioxide/carbon ratio is 11.5/1 (i.e., the manganese is present in an amount of 92 wt%) (see paragraph 37).

Barsukov et al. do not expressly teach that the expanded graphite has a total pore volume of greater than about 0.1 mL/g, as recited in claims 39-41. Further, the reference does not expressly teach that the manganese dioxide comprises between 85 and 90 wt% of the cathode (claim 45).

However, the range recited in claim 45 would be rendered obvious because the artisan would be sufficiently skilled to manipulate the amount of manganese dioxide so as to affect the capacity of the battery. It has been held that the discovery of an optimum value of a result effective variable in a known process is ordinarily within the skill of the art. *In re Boesch*, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980). Thus, the claimed range of 85-90 wt% manganese dioxide, although lower than the value expressly set forth by Barsukov, would still be rendered obvious by the reference.

Ishii et al. is directed to graphite particles that are suitable for a battery. In the abstract, the reference teaches that the graphite has a pore volume of 0.4-2.0 cc/g.

Therefore, the invention as a whole would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because the artisan would be motivated to use the graphite of Ishii et al. in the battery of Barsukov et al. In the abstract, Ishii et al. teaches that the battery using such is "excellent in rapid charge-discharge characteristics, cycle characteristics, etc." Accordingly, because the artisan would be motivated to use the graphite of Ishii et al. as the expanded graphite of Barsukov et al. Therefore, the claimed range of pore volume would be rendered obvious to the skilled artisan.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 1, 4-9, and 28-38 are allowed.
7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claim 1 recites, among other features, that the kerosene absorption of the expanded graphite is greater than about 3.6 mL/g. Claim 28 recites that this value is greater than about 4.4 mL/g. Nardi teaches a preferred kerosene absorption range of 2.2-3.5 mL/g, but does not fairly suggest using a kerosene absorption value above 3.6 mL/g. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-9, and 28-38 are allowed.

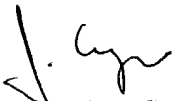
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*Conclusion*

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Crepeau whose telephone number is (571) 272-1299. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Randy Gulakowski, can be reached at (571) 272-1302. The phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 272-1700. Documents may be faxed to the central fax server at (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jonathan Crepeau  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 1746  
April 9, 2004